

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ACCRA 01300 201215Z

41

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 ACDA-05 AGR-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /112 W
----- 043235

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1225

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1300

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG PFOR US GH

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: INFORMATION ON HOST GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 37591

1. FOLLOWING KEYED TO QUESTIONS RAISED PARAGRAPH 7, REFTEL:

(A) AFRICAN ISSUES ARE OF OVERRIDING CONCERN TO GOG ESPECIALLY THOSE PERTAINING TO SOUTHERN AFRICA (NAMIBIA, RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA). SECONDARILY, BUT ALSO IMPORTANT, IS GHANA'S CONCERN TO KEEP ITS CREDENTIALS IN NON-ALIGNED GROUP VALID, AND THIS LEADS TO GHANA TAKING STANDS ON MANY ISSUES (KOREA, GUAM) WHICH ARE BOTH OUTSIDE ITS IMMEDIATE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF INTEREST AND OPPOSED TO POSITIONS TAKEN BY UNITED STATES. GHANA IS ALSO ACTIVE IN DC-LDC MATTERS BUT HAS TENDED TO TAKE MORE MODERATE STANCE THAN, SAY, ALGERIA. WE EXPECT PATTERN WILL CONTINUE ESPECIALLY IN AFRICAN ISSUES AND WITH SOME POSSIBLE MODERATION ON EXTRA-AFRICAN MATTERS. (GHANA, WE FEEL, WAS SOMEWHAT CHASTENED BY OUR REACTION TO ITS POSITION ON KOREA IN
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PAGE 02 ACCRA 01300 201215Z

LAST GA.) AMONG CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE IN MULITLATERAL

ORGANIZATIONS, PRINCIPAL ONE FOR GHANAIS IS THAT OF
DR. KWAME FORDWOR FOR PRESIDENCY OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

(B) GHANA ADHERES CLOSELY TO POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE OAU,
BUT ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE POLICY DECISIONS BY CONSULTATION
WITH OTHER AFRICAN STATES, ESPECIALLY IN THE WEST AFRICAN ARGA.
GHANA ALSO PARTICIPATES IN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCES AND
EXERCISED SOME INFLUENCE IN MODERATING THE POSITION TAKEN
AT LIMA ON ZIONISM ISSUE AS IT HAD ALSO IN OAU. SUCH CONSULTAT-
IONS TAKE PLACE AS WELL IN NEW YORK DURING SESSION.

(C) GHANAIA DELEGATIONS ARE GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO
DEPARTURE AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THEM. HOWEVER, SEVERAL
POINTS NEED TO BE MADE: (1) MINISTRY IS NOT FINAL DECISION
MAKING BODY AND ON SOME ISSUES HEAD OF STATE MAKES SPOT
DECISIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING MINISTRY (AS IN CASE OF RECOGNITION
OF MPLA IN DECEMBER). THIS CAN OCCASIONALLY PULL RUG OUT FROM
UNDER DELEGATION AS SUDDEN RECOGNITION OF GRUNK DID A COUPLE
OF YEARS AGO. (2) THERE IS LEEWAY PROVIDED IN INSTRUCTIONS
ESPECIALLY AS MANY PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS LEAVE ACCRA FOR NEW
YORK FOR ALL OR PART OF UNGA SESSIONS. THIS CUTS ANOTHER WAY
IN THAT EMBASSY IS OFTEN UNABLE TO CONSULT WITH OFFICIALS IN
ACCRA WHO ARE BOTH KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT ISSUE AND HAVE
SUFFICIENT RANK TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION. RETENTION
OF EFFECTIVE CONTROL IS LIMITED BY TWO PRECEDING POINTS AND ALSO
BY EXTREMELY SLOW COMMUNICATIONS AVAILABLE TO MINISTRY BETWEEN
ACCRA AND NEW YORK. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS CAME DURING KOREAN
VOTING IN LAST GA WHEN MINISTRY INSTRUCTED DELEGATE TO ABSTAIN
ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION BUT NEW INSTRUCTIONS ARRIVED TOO LATE
FOR HIM TO USE AND HE CAST NEGATIVE VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
HIS EARLIER INSTRUCTIONS. TO EXTENT POSSIBLE GIVEN FREQUENT
LONG ABSENCES OF KEY OFFICIALS WE KEEP MINISTRY ADVISED ON
MATTERS PERTAINING TO UN FROM OUR OWN REPORTING FROM NEW YORK.
GHANA'S REPORTING IS SLOW AND PRESS REPORTS ARE MOST OFTEN
BASE FROM WHICH MINISTRY OPERATES.

(D) DELEGATIONS DO NOT HAVE INDEPENDENT POWER BEYOND
LEEWAY NOTED IN (C) ABOVE. ALMOST ALL ARE HEADED BY CAREER
FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OR BY CIVIL SERVANTS IN MINISTRY
DEALING WITH SUBJECT MATTER. IN LATTER CASE, FOREIGN SERVICE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ACCRA 01300 201215Z

OFFICERS ARE INVARIABLY ATTACHED TO DELEGATIONS.

(E) IF BY QUOTE RECEPTIVE UNQUOTE CAREFUL AND SYMPATHETIC
HEARING IS MEANT, GHANAIA FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARE QUOTE
RECEPTIVE UNQUOTE. WE HAVE CLOSE AND CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH
THEM ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES (AS DO SEVERAL OF EC-9 COUNTRIES)
AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT WE WILL PRESENT OUR VIEWS ON MAJOR
ISSUES BOTH BEFORE SESSIONS AND DURING THEM AS NEW OR CHANGED

ISSUES COME UP. HOWEVER, WE MUST CAUTION THAT SHORT FUSE ACTION CAN SELDOM BE TAKEN DURING WEEKENDS OR HOLIDAYS; THE MINISTRY IS SIMPLY CLOSED (SEE 2A BELOW). THE REVERSE, OF SOLICITING U.S. SUPPORT ON SPECIFIC MATTERS, HAS GENERALLY BEEN LIMITED TO CANDIDACIES.

2. EMBASSY WISHES ADD FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

(A) WE WELCOME PROSPECT OF RECEIVING MATERIAL WELL IN ADVANCE OF SESSION. WE HAVE FOUND IN PAST THAT LAST MINUTE AND INCOMPLETE INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED (E.G., DURING QUESTION OF SEATING ANGOLA AT COCOA CONFERENCE, WHEN MIDDLE OF SATURDAY NIGHT NIACT IMMEDIATE WAS RECEIVED WITH NO PREVIOUS INFORMATION AND WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CLOSED TIGHT UNTIL MONDAY MORNING). ANOTHER EXAMPLE OCCURRED DURING KOREAN VOTING WHEN NEITHER WE NOR ANY EC-9 MISSION NOR JAPANESE HAD TEXT OF AMENDED JAPANESE RESOLUTION WE WERE EACH EXPECTED TO REQUEST GHANA TO SUPPORT.

(B) ON SOME ISSUES, OF WHICH LOS IS PRIME EXAMPLE, SUBJECT IS OF IMPORTANCE TO GHANA WHICH HAS COMMITTEE WITH CONSIDERABLE EXPERTISE WORKING ON TOPIC, BUT THERE IS NO COUNTERPART IN EMBASSY HERE. WE ENDORSE PRACTICE OF LAST YEAR ON LOS OF SENDING FROM DEPARTMENT OFFICER WHO CAN PRESENT OUR VIEWS ON SUCH HIGHLY SPECIALIZED ISSUES AND RESPOND KNOWLEDGEABLY TO QUESTIONS.

(C) WHILE MECHANICS OF DOING SO MAY BE CUMBERSOME, WE WONDER WHETHER, WHEN IT IS AGREED IN NEW YORK THAT OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD ALSO MAKE PRESENTATIONS, POSTS COULD BE CONSULTED AS TO WHICH OF, SAY, EC-9 MIGHT BE SELECTED TO DO SO. WE FIND HERE AND PRESUMABLY THIS IS TRUE ELSEWHERE IN SMALL NATIONS, THAT ONLY TWO OR THREE OF GROUP INCLUDING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ACCRA 01300 201215Z

EC-9 JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND CANADA CAN MAKE USEFUL PRESENTATIONS BOTH IN VERBAL SENSE AND IN HAVING SOME POTENTIAL CLOUT HERE. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL DIFFICULTIES WE HAD LAST YEAR TRYING TO GET INARTICULATE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR OFF GOLF COURSE AND INTO FOREIGN MINISTRY TO SUPPORT HIS OWN COUNTRY'S RESOLUTION ON KOREA.
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